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SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Transmission of Reports on Albania

The following report on Albania dated November 15, 1951, was made available to the Embassy in Athens by

The work of penetration and solidification carried out by the heads of the Labor Party, on the one hand, and by the Russian Minister Plenipotentiary, on the other, continued actively and unceasingly during the past months of September and October.

It must be acknowledged that work has been and is being done intensively by the above-mentioned persons and that satisfactory results have been attained, especially in the field of public works, a field which the people best appreciate because they can see and understand the immediate value of it. However, the end results and the great manifestations of the crowd on the occasion of the observance of the Party's tenth anniversary have not permitted the Albanian leaders to have any great illusions or given them the hoped-for peace of mind. An example of this, perhaps, is the bitterness expressed by Enver Hoxha in his speech on the 8th of this month against the "Imperialist States" and the Albanian underground which troop activity is suppressing, although not with very appreciable results up to now.

The more significant internal events during this last period are as follows:

1. Completion of important public works, including especially the Meliq sugar refinery, the "Lenin" Hydroelectric refinery, and the "Stalin" textile factory.
2. Trial of 14 Albanian parachutists in Albania accused of serving foreign espionage groups to commit acts of sabotage and acts of sabotage and attempted terrorism.

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3. [] killing of numerous Albanian underground workers returned to Albania for sabotage and terrorism projects.

4. Wide celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Labor Party.

5. Speech of Enver Hoxha on the occasion of the above anniversary.

Also during these past months the activity of the Government has been somewhat increased in the international field and Notes against Belgrade, Athens and Rome have been more numerous than usual. Moreover, it has been confirmed that there is a large influx of foreign delegations to Albania and of correspondents of newspapers or foreign agencies, especially on the occasion of the Party's 10th anniversary. The Minister Plenipotentiary of the USSR has continued untiringly in his active work in all fields and has always been on the front row in all the demonstrations, reunions, conferences, inaugurations, etc. He is ever making new progress in his work of transforming Albania into a Russian colony: proof of this lies in the fact that, notwithstanding Albanian chauvinism in the matter of political independence, the more important works accomplished lately in Albania have been attributed to Stalin and Lenin and within only the past two months two statues of Stalin have been erected at Tirana (one in the main city square and the other in the square at the entrance to the immense "Stalin" textile factory), and a bust of Lenin in the hydroelectric center which bears his name, in the neighboring town of Lanabregas. Certainly, it cannot be stated that the Russian invasion is looked upon with favor by the populace; but it is tolerated, and that may be enough for Mr. Tchouvakine who perhaps regards Albania as only a stepping-stone to loftier undertakings and is not worried about what may happen after him.

Robert B. Memminger
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: *att*

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L. G. Munn

Tirana 15 Novembre 1951.

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